

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 07308 131244Z

42

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-01 SS-14 SP-01 INR-11 SSO-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6069

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7308

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH CABINET MEETING ON POPPIES

REF: ANKARA 7289

1. PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT ANNOUNCED AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 12, FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING MENTIONED REFTEL, THAT CABINET HAD "REVIEWED THE MEASURES TAKEN AND WORK DONE TO CONTROL CULTIVATION IN A MANNER SATISFYING HUMANE CONCERNS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECREE, ISSUED ON JULY 1, 1974, RE-PERMITTING THE CULTIVATION OF THE OPIUM POPPY IN CERTAIN PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS."

2. "IN THE EVENT OF FOLLOWING THE PATH OF NON-INCISION OF THE OPIUM POPPY CAPSULE, WHICH IS AMONG THE MEASURES CONSIDERED, IT WAS DECIDED TO ESTABLISH THE MEASURES WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED TO INCREASE ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY AND THE MATERIAL INCOME WHICH THE OPIUM POPPY FARMER WILL OBTAIN, AND FOR THIS PURPOSE THE PRICE POLICY TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE STATE BE IN FAVOR OF THE FARMERS."

3. COVERAGE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS CARRIED IN ONLY THREE
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 07308 131244Z

ANKARA NEWSPAPERS SEPTEMBER13. BARIS AND MILLIYET

CARRIED VERBATIM TEXT, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TURKISH
DAILY NEWS CLAIMED "TURKEY'S POPPY FARMERS WILL NOT BE
ALLOWED TO EXTRACT OPIUM GUM FROM POPPY PODS WHEN THEY
RESUME CULTIVATION THIS OCTOBER".

4. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL RECOGNIZE THAT GOT'S
OFFICIAL STATEMENT DOES NOT GO AS FAR TOWARD OUTLAWING OPIUM
PRODUCTION AS EMBASSY RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 12 IN PRIVATE
COMMENTS (REFTEL), BUT WE BELIEVE PRIVATE COMMENTS STILL
REPRESENT GOT'S OFFICIAL CONCLUSIONS. VAGUENESS
OF PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT MAY BE INTENDED FOR LOCAL
CONSUMPTION, BUT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE
WORDS THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED ARE ENCOURAGING.

MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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